

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 02678 191001Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15
OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 AGRE-00
CEQ-01 CG-00 DLOS-09 DOTE-00 EPA-04 FMC-02 IO-13
JUSE-00 NSF-02 PA-02 PRS-01 /159 W
-----191014Z 005357 /10

R 190831Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6459
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY/KUWAIT 494
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

UNCLAS TUNIS 2678

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR PLOS TS
SUBJECT: TUNISIAN-LIBYAN DISPUTE OVER CONTINENTAL SHELF:
GOT PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND EFFORTS TO MOBILIZE
ARAB LEAGUE SUPPORT

REF: TUNIS 2498 (NOTAL)

1. MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT AND PARTY (PSD) POLITICAL BUREAU CONTINUE TO REITERATE OFFICIAL GOT VIEWS ON DISPUTE WITH LIBYA OVER CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY. NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF THESE UNCLASSIFIED

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STATEMENTS JUXTAPOSED WITH FRONTPAGE REPORTS THAT EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS NEAR DEPLOMATIC RUPTURE AND, IN "LE TEMPS" OF APRIL 15, HEADLINE THAT FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTY DEPARTING APRIL 17 TO CONTINUE IN OTHER ARAB CAPITALS "INTENSIVE TUNISIAN DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN" ON CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE.

2. "LA PRESSE" AND "LE TEMPS" OF APRIL 15 QUOTE AT LENGTH

STATEMENTS OF POLITICAL BUREAU MEMBER TIJANI MAKNI TO AGRI-CULTURE RESEARCH MEETING IN TUNIS ON: A)-ORIGINS OF LIBYAN-TUNISIAN BOUNDARY DISPUTE IN MISUNDERSTANDING OVER NATURE OR (JANUARY 1974) JERBA DECLARATION: CONSIDERED AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE BY GOT, WHILE LUBYA WISHED IT TO BE PROCLAMATION OF IMMEDIATE UNION; B)-RECENT UNILATERAL LIBYAN RESUMPTION OF OIL DRILLING IN DISPUTED ZONE AFTER DISAVOWING AGREEMENT FOR JOINT EXPLORATION PENDING SUBMISSION OF DISPUTE TO ICJ; C)-DESPITE CESSATION OF DRILLING OPERATIONS BY ITALIANS IN DISPUTED ZONE, THEIR FAILURE TO REMOVE DRILLING STRUCTURE BECAUSE OF LIBYAN THREATS; D)-DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN NOW BEING CONDUCTED BY GOT WITH BROTHER AND FRIENDLY COUNTRIES--BY PRIME MINISTER WITH SEVERAL AMBASSADORS AND BY FOREIGN MINISTER IN VISITS TO ARAB CAPITALS--TO CLARIFY THE TUNISIAN POSITION BEFORE PUBLIC OPINION; AND, E)-POSSIBILITY THAT TUNISIAN MAY BE LED TO TAKE VERY SERIOUS DECISIONS SINCE, "SOONER OR LATER, IT WILL DECIDE TO UNDERTAKE DRILLING IN ZONE WHICH IT CONSIDERS PART OF ITS SOVEREIGN TERRITORY. VIGILANCE IS ESSENTIAL SINCE THE OUTCOME CANNOT BE FORESEEN," MAKNI SAID.

3. TUNIS NEWSPAPERS 16 APRIL QUOTE INTERVIEW GIVEN MOROCCAN "LE MATIN DU SAHARA, BY MINISTER FOR RELATIONS WITH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MONCEF BELHAJ AMOR, IN WHICH HE SAYS SHELF BOUNDARY DISPUTE VERY LONG-STANDING, WITH NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES GOING BACK TO 1968. "MOST JUST AND PRACTICAL SOLUTION", ACCORDING TO BELHAJ AMOR, RESTS WITH HAGUE TRIBUNAL, BUT "DISPUTE ALSO COULD BE SOLVED BY MEDIATION OF BROTHER ARAB STATES OR ARAB ORGANIZATIONS. IN ANY EVENT, IT MUST BE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT TUNISIA IS DETERMINED TO DEFEND ITS RIGHTS."

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
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